

A call for project proposals by Bedford Giving's Resident Panel

Application Guidelines – Strand 3 Supporting the mental health of parents and children under 8

We are a group of 8 Bedford residents who have joined Bedford Giving to shape this open call and make grant decisions that will benefit families with young children in Bedford. This is one of three open calls we are making at the same time.

We are inviting applications for projects that ...

Supporting the mental health of children under 8 and/or their parents

Bedford Giving's Resident Panel call for applications

In developing this call we have considered our own knowledge and experiences of growing up and living in Bedford and looked at research and data highlighting the needs and issues in the borough.

This document provides guidance for interested organisations.

The overall budget for all three calls is £25,000. The minimum grant will be £1,000. The maximum grant will be £5,000.

We are looking for projects that:

- Provide non-judgemental, informal early support and advice about mental health for parents of children under 8 and their children.
- Provide support to families where a child under 8 does not reach the threshold for mainstream services or is waiting for referral to such support.
- Provide informal social connections for parents with children under 8 to reduce feelings of isolation connected to their child's or their own mental health.

Perhaps you are already running something that fits this criteria, but need extra funding to keep it going or expand, or perhaps you need equipment.

Perhaps there is something you've wanted to try, but worry a funder may not understand. The parent panel is looking for interesting ideas and it may just be what they would like to see.

Bedford Giving

Would funding help you provide a service for lower cost or provide different activities? Would you like to run an environmental project that focuses on parent and/or child (under 8) mental health? Our parent panel want to hear your ideas that will make a difference.

If you are uncertain if your ideas meet our criteria, phone or email Keith Johnson for an informal chat on 01234 369525 or email contact@bedfordgiving.org.uk

The Panel will prioritise projects that:

Will address the specific mental health needs of lone parents of young children, as these can be overlooked.

Provide informal, non-stigmatising support.

The difference your project will make...

- Parents and children will be supported whilst waiting to access mainstream services.
- Parents will have someone to talk to.
- Families will have access to advice and will develop the skills to better support their children.
- Parents will feel less isolated.

Our focus is particularly on

Established organisations and new groups (subject to 'who can apply' stipulations below) currently active in Bedford Borough. We will, however, consider applications from outside organisations that bring something different to parents in the area.

We are particularly interested to hear

From smaller community organisations and unregistered charities.

Who can apply?

Not for profit groups with the following structures:

Community groups.

Unregistered charities.

Registered charities.

Community Interest Companies.

Groups applying must have a constitution or other governing document and a governing body or committee of least three people. The balance of power on the board must rest in an unrelated majority with no financial interest in the organisation.



Bedford Giving

What we don't fund

School based projects.
Projects lasting more than one year.

How to apply

Application forms are available on the Bedford Giving website www.bedfordgiving.org.uk or email Keith Johnson contact@bedfordgiving.org.uk
Applications must be received by 12 noon on the deadline date.

Other ways to apply

New to fundraising? Find application forms confusing? Give Keith a call or drop him an email. We'll look at other ways to complete the application process- for instance via a pre-arranged telephone call or perhaps a face-to-face meeting.

Decision making timeline

Application deadline: 4 August 2023

Shortlisting complete: 18 August 2023.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to meet the parent panel to talk about their application in more detail.

Short-listed applicants will be informed w/c 21 August 2023 and advised if they are invited to interview with the panel at the same time.

Interviews with short-listed organisations, where appropriate: 8 September 2023

We ask all applicants to be available in the morning of 8 September, ideally to meet the panel in person.

Panel meets: 15 September 2023.

If Your Application is Successful

Successful short-listed candidates will be informed w/c 18 September 2023.

About Bedford Giving

Bedford Giving is a collaborative, cross sector partnership to improve the lives of children and young people facing disadvantage in Bedford.



Bedford Giving

Bedford Giving is grounded in evidence of local need.

In consultation with the local community Bedford Giving will pool resources (people, money and time, ideas and knowledge) for the benefit of local residents and fund solutions to local issues.

It is a tried and tested model pioneered by Islington Giving in 2010. There are now 14 placed based 'Giving' Schemes.

Purpose

- To be an independent voice raising awareness of the concerns and needs of Bedford's residents, particularly children and young people.
- To utilise collective resources (people, money and time), ideas and knowledge of the needs of the community, for the benefit of local children and young people.
- To increase our impact by identifying and cooperating in support of key projects which could make a significant contribution to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in Bedford.

Key Principles

- Bedford Giving is driven by a shared understanding of local aspirations and needs, not by funders, donors or any one stakeholder.
- Everyone has something to give. We will seek to involve the whole community in giving whatever they can - time, skills, resources, workplace opportunities - to multiply impact.
- By building deep collaborations with other funders, businesses, organisations and individuals we can have a greater impact together than we would do separately, attract new resources and develop new approaches to improve the lives of local people.
- Listening to, and learning from, local people with lived experience of the issues we seek to address and involving them in decision making is paramount and will improve the quality of our work.

